

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 /088 W

----- 115571

R 220600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4365

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0263

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: LUXEMBOURG PARTICIPATION IN
ALL PARTICIPANTS FORMULA

REF: A) USNATO 2085; B) MBFR VIENNA 0201

BRUSSELS ALSO PASS DAO

EMBASSY AGREES WITH RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL B) THAT
EMBARRASSMENT MIGHT RESULT IF THE EAST WERE AGAIN FORMALLY
CONTACTED ON LUXEMBOURG'S EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN MBFR
PHASE II REDUCTIONS. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO DRAW AS LITTLE
ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE TO ANY MODIFICATION IN THE GOL POSITION
ON FORCE REDUCTIONS AFFECTING LUXEMBOURG. MFA OFFICIALS
HERE HAVE DELIBERATELY KEPT SOMEWHAT VAGUE THEIR ATTITUDES
ON THIS ISSUE. THEY FEAR THAT IF LUXEMBOURG PUBLIC OPINION

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BECOMES AWARE OF POSSIBILITY THAT ITS ARMED FORCES MAY BE

INCLUDED IN MBFR PHASE II REDUCTIONS, SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF PRESENT LIBERAL/SOCIALIST COALITION MIGHT BE PRESSURED BY THE PARTY'S STRONG LEFT WING TO INSIST ON IMMEDIATE REDUCTIONS IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. GOL IS ALREADY UNDER PRESSURE TO FURNISH ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL LEGISLATION AND DEFENSE BUDGET WOULD BE PRIME CHOICE FOR CUTS IF LUXEMBOURG FORCES ARE LIKELY TO BE REDUCED AS PART OF MBFR PHASE II. POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS THAT A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON RAMIFICATIONS OF LUXEMBOURG FORCE REDUCTIONS AS PART OF MBFR PHASE II COULD LEAD EVEN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TO HASTILY VOTE DISSOLUTION OF ENTIRE LUXEMBOURG ARMY. IN 1967, DEFENSE BUDGET DEBATE RESULTED IN CONSERVATIVE-DOMINATED GOL COALITION'S YIELDING TO CHAMBER PRESSURE TO ELIMINATE UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH IMMEDIATELY REDUCED BY ONE HALF THE SIZE OF LUXEMBOURG'S ARMED FORCES. GIVEN WIDESPREAD OPINION HERE THAT LUXEMBOURG'S FORCES ARE OF NO MILITARY VALUE, PLUS FACT THAT GOL ALREADY DEVOTES LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF GNP OF ALL NATO MEMBERS TO DEFENSE, RISK EXISTS THAT PUBLIC DEBATE ON FURTHER LUXEMBOURG FORCE REDUCTIONS AS PART OF MBFR PHASE II COULD LEAD TO BOTH SYMBOLIC AND STRATEGIC WEAKENING OF LUXEMBOURG'S COMMITMENT TO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

FARKAS

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NNN

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